

In order to provide technical assistance to states and localities, and to provide a training opportunity for future MCH professionals, the MCHB has created the Graduate Student Internship Program (GSIP). The GSIP was initiated in 1992 to promote a mutually beneficial experience for both students and state and local health agencies, and to create and strengthen ties between the academic community and State, county and city health agencies.

The GSIP provides MCH graduate students with the opportunity to address specific, defined data or analytic issues as part of states', counties' and cities' efforts to develop or enhance their MCH/ CSHCN information systems. The internship projects are focused in three critical areas of MCH epidemiology:

► **DATA ANALYSIS AND MONITORING**

Projects in this area involve monitoring of diseases, injuries, and health conditions for their frequency, risk factors, consequences, and health service requirements, and analysis of epidemiological data sets. For example, a 2005 GSIP intern with the Massachusetts Department of Health's Center for Community Health examined demographic, clinical, and behavioral factors associated with adverse birth outcome, among a diverse population of low-income women in order to perform a trend analysis.

► **NEEDS ASSESSMENT** Projects in this area include the systematic analysis, assessment, and projection of health needs and resources in a given population or community. For example, a 2005 GSIP intern with Orange County Health Care Agency conducted an assessment of Perinatal Periods of Risk for Orange County using combined birth cohorts.

► **PROGRAM EVALUATION** Projects in this area include the monitoring, collection, and analysis of data to determine the effectiveness or outcomes of a particular program or project. For example, a 2004 GSIP intern with the Virginia Department of Health conducted an evaluation of a new toolkit, the New Parent Kit. This was achieved by tracking utilization of the kit and measuring changes in knowledge and behaviors among parents.

The GSIP is coordinated by the Maternal and Child Health Information Resource Center (MCHIRC), which works to enhance the capacity of MCH agencies to collect, analyze, and use data for planning and policymaking. One of the MCHIRC's goals is to improve the epidemiologic capacity of State and local MCH/CSHCN programs.

Master's and doctoral degree candidates in U.S. schools of public health (accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health) in Maternal and Child Health (MCH) programs or in related programs that involve MCH studies, who are U.S. citizens or foreign nationals who possess a visa permitting permanent residence in the U.S. may apply.

Selected state, county and city internship proposals will be compiled in a catalog and distributed to all schools of public health as well as posted on our web site (<http://www.mchb.hrsa.gov/mchirc/gsip>) in January 2006. In the application process, students may indicate and rank up to three positions for which they are interested. Applications will be due February 18, 2006. The GSIP Committee matches interns with the most appropriate internship opportunities regardless of student or internship location, and the committee will make every effort to honor the applicants ranked choices. Applicants will be informed of the committee's decisions in March 2006.

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE AND STIPEND

The internship is to be completed over a 12 week period, to begin in May, June, or July 2006. Interns will receive a stipend of \$5000 to be disbursed over three months to cover travel to the internship site, housing, and daily living expenses. Approximately 20 internship opportunities will be available in 2006.

EXPERIENCES

Here's what students had to say about their GSIP experience...

"It gave me the opportunity to get hands on experience using my epidemiological skills and enhancing some of my statistical skills. I feel better prepared for my master's project which is also about program evaluation."

*Erin Johnson
Baltimore City Health Department*

"I think this internship program allows you to participate in a meaningful internship experience. Many MPH internship programs only include data entry projects, whereas the GSIP program allows the students to contribute to their internship sites."

*Molly Ptacek
District of Columbia Department of Health,
Maternal and Family Health Administration*

Here's what preceptors had to say about their GSIP experience...

"[The intern] contributed to different parts of the agency. She provided important analysis of youth risk and child health factors. In addition, she provided an objective and thorough view of the Title V Needs Assessment thus benefiting all MCH programs and population."

Mississippi Department of Health

"She was able to put into practice her SAS skills and conducted real-life data management and analysis using data directly from questionnaires.... Overall, I believe the fact that she was given the task of preparing the Annual report by herself gave [the intern] the confidence that the skills she is currently gaining in school can be put into practice. In addition, her experience here made her realize additional skills she needed to acquire."

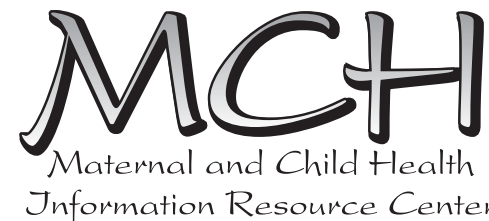
Massachusetts Department of Public Health

**For more information about
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Health Resources and Services Administration
Maternal and Child Health Bureau



SUMMER 2006 GRADUATE STUDENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



**To Promote Training in MCH
Epidemiology**

